

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - October 7, 2008

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Engelhardt had everyone at the meeting make brief introductions.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Terry Moulthane, Bay City; Brandon Wilcox, MDOT Planning; Rick Fowler, MDOT Planning; Adam Rivard, MDOT Bay City; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Jay Reithel, MDOT - Bay City and; Eric Sprague, Bay Metro.

Minutes from September 9, 2008 Tech meeting:

A correction was noted by Fowler regarding a name correction. On page one, under the section titled *MDOT Presentation - A Looming Financial Crisis for Transportation*, the minutes read Susan *Bartell* when it should be Susan *Mortel*. It was moved by Gaydos, seconded by Lillo, to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2008 meeting with the noted correction. Motion Passed.

Harrison Street Project Update:

This project was recently added to the TIP with only FY 2010 funds. However with an increase in project costs, more funding is needed. In FY 2009 BCATS had set aside \$325,466 of project funds for a possible rescission. With concurrence by MDOT BCATS is re allocating those funds into the TIP as the rescission amounts will come from unspent prior balances. At the September 2, 2008 BCATS Technical Committee meeting those present recommended the allocation of \$325,466 for FY-2009 towards the Harrison St project. Engelhardt didn't believe a new motion was needed to re-recommend this allocation for the Harrison Street Project as the existing one will be presented to the Policy Committee. Discussion about STP Funds and the formula used to determine the amount each MPO receives. Discussion ensued.

TRIP Data Request:

The TRIP Data reports/surveys were due to MDOT on October 6, 2008. Some of the information requested seems redundant. However, there is a sequence of information collection taking place at the state level in order to make well informed funding decisions. MPOs are encouraged to submit the TRIP Data.

Tri-County Regional Path Study Update:

Engelhardt gave an update on the progress of Phase II of the Tri-County Regional Path Study. In Phase II sub-groups have been created to look into which routes in their area would make for the best connectivity. There is a need to create a fluid path, especially under/over I-75. These groups are looking for the most logical and preferred routes for the paths to take. Westbury provided a map showing the most logical path routes for the Bay City to Midland to create connectivity. Engelhardt would like to see the path routes addressed in upcoming projects whenever possible. It has been suggested that the Tri-County Regional Path Study become a sub-group of the larger Vision Tri-County Group. Engelhardt mentioned the 1980's BCATS Bicycle Plan and thought it might be worth re-visiting and updating this plan in light of the new move toward connectivity paths.

BCATS FY-2009 UWP:

Engelhardt provided an update of the BCATS FY-2009 UWP. The process of drafting a UWP that fits into the Federal requirements has been a long process. However, we are close to having a final approval. The state has been reviewing the BCATS FY-2009 UWP and it is conditionally approved. There are a few minor verbiage changes the state would like to see before they approve the document.

FY 2010-11-12-13 TIP Timetable Project List:

Engelhardt provided those present with a FY 2010-11-12-13 TIP Timetable Project List. He also discussed the importance of prioritizing projects for both the TIP and Long Range Plan. Projects that are brought forward should be prioritized. The reason for prioritizing projects would be to have them ready when bids come in low for other jobs in order to use the excess of funds to move projects forward. In addition, BCATS should have some small projects that fit into the MDOT bid process set aside in case funds become available. Currently, BCATS is waiting to get the initial MDOT revenue estimates for the FY 2010-11-12-13 in order to move forward.

Project Updates:

The ***Two Mile/Wilder Road Project Safety Grant*** didn't go through. There were other projects submitted that had a higher rate of concern. Lillo will submit this project for a Safety Grant the next year. The ***Seven Mile Project*** should be completed by the end of this week and opened by next week. The ***Pine Street Project*** is complete. The ***Midland Street Project*** scheduled for 2011 will be adjusted. The project will not expand Midland to 3 lane, but instead repave a longer distance. Due to funding its unclear what all can be accomplished for this project. However, at a minimum drainage and paving will be done. Lillo would like to see the ***Monitor Road Project*** become one of the small projects added to the BCATS list should funding become available. The ***MDOT M-25 Project*** for patch work from Dean to Johnson Street should be completed by the end of October, 2008. The ***M-25 Center Ave Heritage Route Project*** will begin after the resolution of some issues. This project is expected to begin April, 2009. The current plan is that the utilities will be underground. Due to SHPO requirements for lighting which only one sole vendor can accommodate, the project cost has been increased. Work on the detour route of Pine Rd for this project will begin this fall. The ***MDOT M-25 Heritage Route Inventory*** is in the beginning phases to make M-25 a heritage route from Bay City all the way around the Thumb. There will be a meeting on Friday, October 31, 2008 for the ***University Trail Enhancement Project*** to give a project update and to discuss a request for TFC enhancement funding.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Lillo, to have Engelhardt draft and sign a letter of support for the University Trail Project from BCATS to be sent out prior to the October 31st University Trail Meeting. Motion Passed.

The ***Vision Tri-County Path Project Group*** has secured the property rights required to move forward with connecting Bay County to Zilwaukee.

A motion was made by Majerczyk, seconded by Lillo, to have Engelhardt draft and sign a letter of support for the Vision Tri-County Zilwaukee Trail Project from BCATS. Motion Passed.

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All of the **Bay Metro Capital Fund Projects** have been completed. The **Bay Metro Job Access Reverse Commute Grant** is going well with an increase in usage. It is anticipated that Bay Metro will need to request more money for this grant next year. Engelhardt requested that Bay Metro submit a list of their completed projects to BCATS for FY2008. The **North Henry Street Project** is going well. This project is expected to be complete by November 15, 2008. The **Harrison Street Project** is on schedule and all SHPO related permits are in order. However, the permit from the Rail Road has not been obtained for this project. It is anticipated that this project will be let in January, 2009. The **Woodside Avenue Project** is complete. Due to the ridged fabric very tight specification requirements, the fabric was left out when the project was re-paved. Legal matter ensuing.

Engelhardt requested that when MPOs submit projects to MDOT that they provide a copy of the project applications to BCATS.

Other/New Business:

There was no other or new business to discuss.

As there was no other business, the October 7, 2008 meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul